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## Secretary Is Doubtful On Enemy's Response

**U.S. Official Says Hanoi  
Offers No Indication  
Of Accepting Bid As  
Step Toward Peace**

By JOSEPH R. L. STERNE  
(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Dec. 1—Dean Rusk emphasized today that the United States has not excluded the possibility of another pause in bombing attacks against North Vietnam but said the Communists so far have given no indication they would accept this as a step toward peace.

The Secretary of State said his negative assessment of the enemy's attitude was not based on conjecture or speculation but on regular, weekly contacts with the Hanoi regime.

He did not specify how or where these contacts are maintained.

### Problem On Peace

Rusk told the White House Conference on International Cooperation that the present conflict confronts this Government with a problem in "organizing peace" that transcends even the immediate plight of Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

If the American commitment falters and if Red China is successful in basing its policy on militancy rather than peaceful coexistence, the Secretary warned that the trend could be toward the kind of big war most nations agree would be irrational.

Facing an audience that included many prominent citizens who had used the White House conference as a platform for criticism of the Administration's policy in Vietnam, Rusk sharply



SECRETARY RUSK

"Your leaders need prayers . . ."

suggested that many would change their minds if they sat in his seat and had access to his information.

The question of trying to make peace with an enemy who engages in infiltration and terror and subversion is of such dimensions that it makes "pigmies of everyone," the Secretary said.

### "Should Take Care"

"Anyone who thinks he has sure, solid answers should take care," he continued. "He should approach these problems on his knees, for your leaders need prayers, not imprecations."

When asked by Norman Cousins, editor of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, whether people who are "fully informed" can oppose the bombings of North Vietnam and yet be loyal, the Secretary of State responded at length.

He said the Administration "of

course knows the difference between disloyalty and dissent."

But instead of then reiterating right of dissent, Rusk took the offensive by saying he also knows that the "Communist apparatus" is "very busy" in this country. "Don't ask me to close my eyes to that fact," he snapped.

### "In Constant Touch"

Turning next to the question of air attacks, the Secretary said he did not see how anyone can say a pause in bombing would contribute to world peace.

"We are in constant touch with the other side . . . regularly, every week," he declared.

"This is completely adequate for finding out whether stopping bombings would lead to peace negotiations. We don't have to speculate about that . . . the other side has had this question before it regularly but they have been unwilling to give an answer."

Rusk said it was not just a debating point to note that the United States paused for four years despite Viet Cong terrorism before it bombed North Vietnam.

### Called It An Insult

Nor is it just a debating point, he continued, to recall that the United States halted its bombing for five days last spring and by the third day the Communists not only spurned the gesture but called it an insult.

Rusk drew applause when he said "I am not now excluding the possibility of stopping the bombing as a step toward peace."

He stressed that the United States would keep trying to bring Hanoi to the conference table and said the door to peace is "wide open."

In talking about Communist China's belligerency, Rusk said Peking has suffered rebuffs in Africa, in Indonesia and in the Indian subcontinent.

He seemed to suggest that if Peking now can be shown infiltration and subversion will not work in Vietnam, it may at least be willing to join most other nations of the world in a coexistence based on common rejection of nuclear holocaust or big armies marching across borders.

Describing the American commitment in Vietnam as the "principal pillar of peace," the Secretary said Peking could make a "monstrous miscalculation" if it feels this commitment is not worth very much.

In answer to other questions raised at the White House conference, Rusk declared:

1. The Central Intelligence Agency does not make Government policy and does not engage in actions that are unknown to the policy officers of the Administration. A "tough struggle" is going on in "backalleys" all over the

world and it requires a 'great deal of gallantry' from CIA men. There is an organized effort to forge and lies to implicate the CIA in situations in which it is not involved.

### 127 Talks

2. Communist China, which is probably in more frequent diplomatic contact with the United States than with any other nation except the Soviet Union, has in 127 talks refused to discuss any question except taking over Taiwan. All other questions — admission to the United Nations, Vietnam, exchanges of newsmen and doctors, disarmament — Peking shunts aside pending a solution of the Formosa question.

3. Cuba would be welcomed back into the Western Hemisphere community of nations if it would halt its terrorist campaigns in Latin America and cut its military ties with Communists outside the hemisphere. But so far it has shown no indication it will do so.

The Secretary's speech preceded the final plenary session of a three-day citizens conference called by President Johnson to mark "international cooperation year."

Thirty-one panels met to discuss everything from aviation to women, foreign aid to international law, agriculture to disarmament.

Joseph F. Johnson, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, wryly told the conference that there had been agreement on almost everything except the paramount issues of war and peace.

Most of the delegates, he said, had engaged in discussions that reflected "great impatience" with State Department "status quo," with "where we are and where we seem to be going."

A few of the delegates, however, raised the question of whether international cooperation ought to flow from such capitals as Moscow, Peking, Cairo and New Delhi rather than just from the United States, Johnson added.

### "Verging On Bitter"

The Carnegie endowment president described some of the debate on disarmament and Vietnam as "verging on the bitter."

There was much confusion evident among delegates today about the practical purposes of the long, wordy exercise.

When Rusk was asked what would happen to recommendations of the conference, he replied whimsically that they would be studied and might be tried out provided the Russians had not already rejected them.